

**Notice of Allowability**

Application No.	Applicant(s)	
09/974,653	BICEK ET AL.	
Examiner	Art Unit	
Victor X. Nguyen	3734	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTO-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1.  This communication is responsive to 4/19/2007.
2.  The allowed claim(s) is/are 17-20, 22-27 and 39-55.
3.  Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
  - a)  All
  - b)  Some\*
  - c)  None of the:
  1.  Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2.  Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  3.  Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* Certified copies not received: \_\_\_\_\_.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.  
**THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.**

4.  A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5.  CORRECTED DRAWINGS ( as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
  - (a)  including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review ( PTO-948) attached
    - 1)  hereto or 2)  to Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
  - (b)  including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6.  DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

**Attachment(s)**

1.  Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2.  Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3.  Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),  
Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
4.  Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit  
of Biological Material
5.  Notice of Informal Patent Application
6.  Interview Summary (PTO-413),  
Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
7.  Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8.  Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9.  Other \_\_\_\_\_.

**EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT**

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

The application has been amended as follows:

**Non-elected claims 25-27 depending from generic claim 17 have been rejoined and allowed because claims 17, 40, and 48 have been found to be allowable.**

**EXAMINER'S COMMENT**

2. The Notice of Allowance is responsive to applicant's Appeal Brief filed 4/19/2007. The arguments, **see pages 4-15**, filed therein has overcome the rejection of claims 17, 40, 48 **under 35 USC 102 (b) mailed on 9/13/2006**. Therefore, the rejection of claims have been withdrawn.

3. The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter:

The claims in the instant application have not been rejected using prior art because no references, or reasonable combination thereof, could be found which disclose or suggest at least one support stent has an axial length less than the axial length of a main stent body, a sheath interposes between the body and the support stent with no portions of the main stent being in contact with the support stent, where the support stent generates a pressing force with the main stent to hold the sheath in place, where the sheath is not being bonded to the support stent with the pressing force solely acting to hold the sheath in place. As to claim 40, the prior art does not

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teach the invention including, a sheath interposes between the body and the support stent with no portions of the main stent being in contact with the support stent, where the support stent is plastically deformed and generates a pressing force with the main stent to hold the sheath in place, where the sheath is not being bonded to the support stent with the pressing force solely acting to hold the sheath in place. As to claim 48, the prior art does not teach the invention including, a polymeric sheath interposes between the body and the support stent with no portions of the main stent being in contact with the support stent, where the support stent generates a pressing force with the main stent to hold the sheath in place, where the sheath is not being bonded to the support stent with the pressing force solely acting to hold the sheath in place.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Victor X. Nguyen whose telephone number is (571) 272-4699. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F (8-4.30 P.M.).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Michael Hayes can be reached on (571) 272-4697. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Victor X Nguyen  
Examiner  
Art Unit 3734

*Nguyen VTC/BS*

VN  
8/15/2007

*M J Hayes*  
MICHAEL J. HAYES  
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER